

General Practice Guidance for Prescribing for Temporary Patients

Who is a temporary Patient?

- If someone **becomes ill** while away from their usual place of residence, for more than 24 hours but less than 3 months they can register as a temporary patient and completes a registration form NHS GMS3.
- <http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/AboutNHSservices/Documents/Doctors/GMS3.pdf>
- If the patient stays in the area longer than 3 months the patient needs to register as a permanent patient.
- Ask the patient for proof of identity and proof of normal residency.
- If the patient has a NHS medication card, the process is simpler and proves the entitlement to NHS treatment.
- The temporary GP can see the patient on a Private basis if the patient is unable to provide proof of their NHS entitlement.
- Patients visiting from outside the EU may be treated under the NHS if regarded as emergency or immediately necessary otherwise they will be treated as private patients.

Points to consider before prescribing

Ideally contact the patient's usual surgery for a summary of the patient's medical history and current medications. If this is not possible ask the patient for their repeat or other proof to indicate they are taking the requested medication.

For temporary patients assess the clinical needs of the patient and consider the benefits and risks before prescribing medication.

- Is the medication necessary?
- If it is not prescribed will it affect the patient's health?
- Could it be delayed until the patient attends their usual GP?
- Is there a suitable alternative the patient could purchase from the pharmacy?
- Consider if the patient has obtained medication from another source e.g out of hours or another practice?

Consider prescribing the minimum quantity required to meet the patient's immediate clinical needs and arrange review if necessary and there is a delay in the patient attending their usual GP.

Do not prescribe any medicines liable to abuse to a temporary resident without:

- a. ensuring that the person is resident at the address
- b. such an address indeed exists!
- c. confirming with the patient's usual prescriber that he/ she is on the drugs, dose and frequency and date of last prescription. Obtain contact details independently.
- d. if c. above is satisfied one may issue a prescription, where appropriate, for a week and review. after.

It is recommended that the temporary GP informs the permanent GP of any treatment provided for addition to the medical record

Please do not normally consider issuing another prescription for patients who advise that they have lost or had stolen their prescription unless they have notified the police and can advise of the incident number (which should be recorded in the patient notes).

This also applies to Out of Hours services who may be approached by patients in these circumstances